Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Business Plan 2005-2006

Report DNR 2005-01
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1 Message from the Minister and the Deputy Minister

We are pleased to present the 2005-2006 Business Plan for the Department of Natural Resources. The priorities described in this plan support the government's broad goals and objectives and are consistent with the department's budget allocation for the upcoming fiscal year. These priorities are in addition to the department's many activities which are at a more operational level and which are carried out every year.

We have just started work to prepare Forest, Mineral, Parks, and Biodiversity Strategies that will provide policy direction and guidance for years to come. These strategies will require a significant effort from department staff in the upcoming year and are expected to be completed in 2006-2007. Dealing with the lingering effects of Hurricane Juan will also continue in 2005-2006. This year will see the completion of repairs to our parks and trails that were affected by the hurricane however the increased risk of forest fires and the further spread of the brown spruce longhorn beetle in the hurricane damaged forests of the central region of the province is of particular concern.

The department is committed to the stewardship and sustainable management of Nova Scotia's natural resources and our provincial Crown lands, that make up approximately a quarter of the province's land mass. We are committed to the successful implementation of this business plan to support the department in its role as steward of our natural resources and Crown lands.

original signed by

Honourable Richard Hurlburt
Minister of Natural Resources

Date: April 20/05

original signed by

Peter C. Underwood
Deputy Minister of Natural Resources

Date: April 15/05

2 Mission

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is "to build a better future for Nova Scotians through responsible natural resources management".

3 Planning Context

The department has broad responsibilities relative to the development, management, conservation and protection of forest, mineral, park and wildlife resources and the administration of the province's Crown land.

The department is affected by numerous pressures, both external and internal, that must be recognized and taken into account. The department's plan for 2005-2006 attempts to deal with these pressures. Six particular areas, which have a continuing impact on the department's operations, are listed below.

3.1 Multiple Competing Demands for our Limited Land and Resource Base

A principal responsibility of the department is the management of provincial Crown lands in the province. Just over a quarter of the land in Nova Scotia is provincial Crown land. This is the second lowest proportion of Crown lands of all the provinces and territories, with only Prince Edward Island having a lower proportion. There are strong public expectations, and numerous competing demands, for the use of this limited public land and resource base, and how it is managed. There is also pressure to add to the provincial Crown land base by acquiring properties with specific characteristics valued by Nova Scotians.

In addition, the urbanization of the central part of the province has led to demands to limit Crown land resource development and to provide additional park facilities close to the population base. High demands being placed on beach parks in and near HRM have been particularly noticeable in recent years.

3.2 Demographic Change

Since 1986, the population has become increasingly concentrated in the central part of the province, in Colchester, Halifax, Hants, and Kings counties. Statistics Canada figures show that about 51% of the population lived in these four counties in 1986 with the remainder in the other 14 counties. By 2002, the central part of the province accounted for 56% of the population.

Significant changes are also expected in the province's age distribution. Statistics Canada has forecast that from 2002 to 2026, the percentage of Nova Scotians less than 20 years of age will fall from 24% to 18% while the percentage of the population 65 years and older will increase from 14% to 24%.

Just as these changes will have major implications for our health and education systems, so too will the demand for many of the department's services and programs be affected by the changing preferences and expectations of a relatively older and increasingly urban population. At the same time, younger Nova Scotians are looking for new outdoor recreational experiences that have not been provided in the past.

3.3 Climate Change and Weather

The Government of Canada reports that "...the 20th century was the warmest century of the last millennium; the 1990s were the warmest decade of the last century....". What the long-term effects of climate change on the province will be are not known for certain, but our climate and weather patterns are likely to be different in the future.

We do know that during 2003-2004 the province was hit by flooding, a hurricane, and a record amount of snowfall from a winter storm. In addition, a major forest fire occurred in the western end of the province during the year. Weather related events such as these can, and do, have a profound influence on the department's operations, and budget requirements, both positive and negative. Forest fires, insect infestations, wildlife and forest health, and park attendance are all affected by weather conditions. Ecosystems may also be affected resulting in changes in wildlife habitat and native species health and the possible introduction of exotic pests (non-native wildlife).

3.4 Deteriorating Physical Infrastructure

The department has seen significant reductions in budget and staffing levels since the mid-1990's. One consequence has been a deterioration in the department's infrastructure as replacements and some maintenance have been deferred. This includes our fleet of vehicles, helicopters, buildings, parks facilities, and equipment. The need to meet budgetary challenges in the past has resulted in a deferral of infrastructure maintenance and postponed asset replacement.

3.5 Globalization Impacts

Our resource sectors are a part of the global economy and make up the foundation industries in Opportunities for Prosperity, A New Economic Growth Strategy, which is the province's economic growth and development strategy. Forestry and mineral products account for a significant proportion of the value of our provincial exports. Resource prices are cyclical and frequently volatile. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar, relative to the U.S. dollar, has had the effect of making Canadian exports more expensive. Trade issues, such as the current softwood lumber exports dispute with the United States and pressure for forest products to receive environmental certification, have a significant impact on some of the companies that make up our resource industries and how they operate. National developments, such as the federal species at risk legislation, have implications for Nova Scotia. Meeting demands by out-of-province visitors for opportunities to enjoy the province's natural beauty and for outdoor recreation requires that tourism and recreation values be considered as part of Crown land management.

3.6 Public Perceptions and Expectations

Many members of the public are unaware of the true extent of the province's foundation industries and how they operate. The forestry and minerals sectors are made up of much more than just wood harvesting and mineral extraction. Exploration, forest management, geoscience, geomatics, survey, mapping, environmental, transportation, distribution, and financial services are all required. The resource sector needs sophisticated machinery and equipment, high technology products, and computers to operate and compete globally. Skilled labour is needed to operate these production systems. Resource sector jobs also tend to be highly paid and relatively long term, compared to the minimum wage, seasonal positions found in some other sectors. Manufacturing, fabrication, and assembly add value to the natural resources found in the province. Nova Scotia's mineral and forestry industries are among the province's leading industries in their application of advanced technology as companies make investments in technology to minimize costs, increase productivity, and improve environmental performance.

Some members of the public do not seem to recognize or understand the efforts being made by the resource sector to operate on a sustainable basis, to meet environmental standards and regulations, and to carry out programs and activities which support conservation and preservation objectives in the province.

4 Strategic Goals

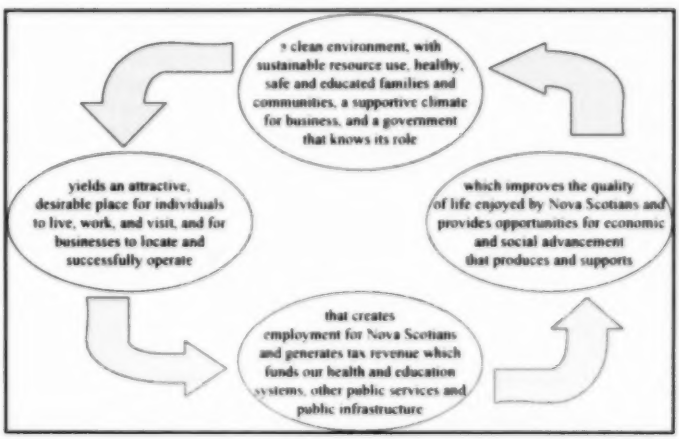
Five broad goals were identified as part of a strategic plan prepared for the department in the mid-1990's. Since then, the goals have been adjusted slightly to better align them with the government's overall goals. The department's goals are:

- to achieve sound natural resources stewardship;
- to conserve the diversity of Nova Scotia's natural environment;
- to support Nova Scotia's economy through the sustainable development of natural resources;
- to improve the quality of life in Nova Scotia; and
- to manage the department's financial, physical, human, and information resources effectively and efficiently.

Government's major priorities, simply stated, continues to be health care (better, faster health care and healthier Nova Scotians), education (learning is succeeding), building greater prosperity, fiscal responsibility and accountability, and protecting what Nova Scotians value.

Natural resources provide significant economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits to Nova Scotians, and the best available scientific knowledge must be used for their sound management. The department's aim is to maintain an appropriate balance so that resource use continues to provide a substantial contribution to the provincial economy (and especially our rural economy), while being carried out in a socially responsible and sustainable manner that meets the department's conservation and preservation responsibilities. Our natural resources are one of the province's features that make it an attractive place to live, visit, and do business. In addition, revenue generated from the resource sector (both directly and indirectly) helps to fund our health and education systems, and other important public services.

The following diagram shows how government's priorities are supported by the department, and how our society, economy, environment, and natural resources are all inter-connected.


a clean environment, with sustainable resource use, healthy, safe and educated families and communities, a supportive climate for business, and a government that knows its role
which improves the quality of life enjoyed by Nova Scotians and provides opportunities for economic and social advancement that produces and supports
that creates employment for Nova Scotians and generates tax revenue which funds our health and education systems, other public services and public infrastructure
yields an attractive, desirable place for individuals to live, work, and visit, and for businesses to locate and successfully operate

5 Core Business Areas

The department's activities can be allocated to one of the following core business areas:

- Natural Resources Management;
- Crown Lands Administration; and
- Infrastructure and Support Services.

DNR manages natural resources on an integrated basis. Individual resource sectors, such as forestry, wildlife, minerals, and parks, are all part of the Natural Resources Management core business area which is in keeping with our integrated approach to the management of the natural resources falling in the department's areas of responsibility.

5.1 Natural Resources Management

Natural Resources Management covers the department's broad responsibilities relative to the development, management, conservation, use, and protection of forest, mineral, park and wildlife resources.

Forestry responsibilities, on both Crown and private lands, include forest management planning and research, developing and implementing strategies to ensure sustainable forests, maintaining the provincial forest inventory, producing data on the province's forest resources, monitoring primary forest production, and coordinating extension programs and support for industry development. On private lands, the department leverages expenditures on silvicultural activities by providing a portion of the funding. DNR also provides technical and professional assistance and information, supports the construction of forest access roads, and monitors for compliance with regulatory requirements related to forest harvesting and forest management. On Crown lands, the department administers the licensing of land for timber and other resource uses. Funding is provided to invest in silviculture in order to ensure forest sustainability, and a network of access roads on Crown lands is maintained. Protection-related responsibilities include the development and operation of programs designed to protect Nova Scotia forests from fire, insects and disease, and to protect special sites, watercourses, and significant wildlife habitats.

Mineral responsibilities include the implementation of policies and programs dealing with exploration, development, management, and utilization of mineral resources. The department develops and implements strategies to support and promote the mineral resource sector, maintains the provincial geoscientific database and inventory of mineral resources, monitors mineral production and monitors for compliance with regulatory requirements, administers mineral royalties and the provincial mineral rights tenure system, coordinates interdepartmental regulatory reviews of mineral development projects, and provides professional assistance and advice with respect to mineral resources and provincial geology. Geological studies, undertaken to document and understand the province's geology, help to document the province's mineral endowment and define the potential for new mineral resources. These programs also provide needed information to support sound public policy decisions in areas such as mineral resource development, environmental protection, land use, and public health and safety.

Park responsibilities include the planning, design, development, and operation of over 120 camping and day-use park, and natural area parks and park reserves, in addition to supporting facilities on Crown lands, various trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities and, through partnerships with community groups, on private lands. Parks and recreation programs and services provide quality recreational experiences to Nova Scotians and visitors to the province, while ensuring environmental, heritage and resource protection.

Wildlife responsibilities include research, development and delivery of programs, policies, and legislation for the management and conservation of the province's wildlife resources and their habitats, including endangered species initiatives. Information on wildlife populations and their habitat is collected in order to obtain the scientific information required for sound decision-making. This also includes the provision of educational and viewing opportunities at the provincial wildlife park in Shubenacadie.

Enforcement responsibilities include the development, coordination and operation of a departmental resource law enforcement and compliance program, which also provides enforcement services to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the protected areas program within the Department of Environment and Labour, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

5.2 Crown Lands Administration

This core business area covers the department's activities related to the administration of the province's Crown lands. Crown Lands Administration encompasses the acquisition, leasing and disposal of interests in Crown lands, co-ordination of government surveying requirements, carrying out Crown lands boundary line maintenance, maintenance of provincial Crown lands records and the Crown lands GIS cadastral database.

Nova Scotia's land mass is approximately 13 million acres, of which about 3.5 million acres are administered and controlled by the Department of Natural Resources as provincial Crown lands (other departments, like Transportation and Public Works and the Department of Environment and Labour, also administer land holdings, such as highways and land with provincial government buildings, and wilderness areas, respectively). The department is also responsible for submerged lands along the province's nine thousand kilometres of coastline. Approximately 20 land-related statutes are administered by the department, as well as the provision of land-related services to other departments, such as land administration and designations for the Department of Environment and Labour, and activities undertaken in partnership with non-government conservation oriented organizations aimed at securing ecologically significant lands.

5.3 Infrastructure and Support Services

Infrastructure responsibilities include the maintenance and replacement of a fleet of hundreds of highway and other specialized vehicles (such as fire trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs, and tractors), as well the operation and maintenance of five helicopters. The road vehicles are heavily used in every aspect of the department's program delivery, such as fire suppression and enforcement, and provide a range of capabilities from staff transportation to heavy equipment operations. Helicopter uses include forest fire detection and suppression, ground search and rescue, and natural resource research and management. The DNR fleet

(particularly helicopters) plays an important role in the province's emergency preparedness planning. Department facilities range from offices and depots, to pole barns, aircraft hangars, fire towers, and laboratories.

Central support services includes human resources, information technology, financial, communications, legal, planning, asset management, risk management, records management, office administration, library services, and the Office of the Minister and Deputy Minister. As the host department for the Resources Corporate Services Unit, financial services, human resources, and information technology are provided to the other resource departments, which are the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Labour, and the Department of Energy. Several other departments (Finance and the Public Service Commission) and numerous agencies (including Treasury and Policy Board, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Communications Nova Scotia, the Emergency Measures Organization, the Office of the Auditor General, the Voluntary Planning Board, and the Legislative House of Assembly), also receive certain support services from the Resources Corporate Services Unit. As a result, substantial budget expenditures reported as part of the department's budget are used to provide support to other departments and agencies.

6 Priorities

The following are the main priorities that have been identified for the Department of Natural Resources for 2005-2006. Priorities are grouped within the core business areas previously identified. These priorities are in addition to the department's regular ongoing operations.

6.1 Natural Resources Management

Priorities for this core business area are primarily related to the department's ongoing responsibility for sound natural resource stewardship.

6.1.1 Strategy Renewal and Development

One of the department's most important priorities for 2005-2006 is to work on a renewal of the department's forest and mineral strategies, to develop and implement a comprehensive system strategy and plan for our provincial parks, and prepare a provincial biodiversity strategy.

Action on these strategies was started late in 2004-2005 and will continue into 2006-2007. Work planned for 2005-2006 includes the development of principles and issues papers for each of the strategies, and consultations with the aboriginal community, stakeholders, interest groups, and the public, and within government. Draft strategies will be prepared in late 2005-2006 and early 2006-2007 based on input received during consultations, scientific knowledge, and the provincial mandate for the management of these resources.

The result of this work will be a set of up to date, coordinated provincial strategies for forests, minerals, the provincial parks system, and biodiversity. These strategies will determine the priorities and direction for government actions necessary for the management of the resources covered by these strategies and the programs, services and activities related to their management. The ultimate result will be a policy framework that supports

sustainable natural resource management, the conservation of a healthy natural environment, and current and new economic opportunities linked to these resources.

6.1.2 Manage the Province's Forest Resources

The current Forest Strategy consists of nine major policy, program and regulatory elements, the focus of which is on achieving sustainable forestry and forest use in the province. In 1998, changes were made to the *Forests Act* to introduce the concept of sustainable forestry and to provide the authority needed to implement the Forest Strategy. Specific priorities planned for 2005-2006 that are related to completing the implementation of the current Forest Strategy are:

- To complete, with an appropriate review process, the 2005 wood supply analysis for Nova Scotia in preparation for the five year review of critical elements in the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*.

- To complete and release the four sections (Forest Ecosystems, Forest Products, Wildlife Habitat, and Integrated Forest Use) of the guidebook component of the Code of Forest Practice. This will involve formal public review of all sections during the year.

- To conduct an extensive review of the silviculture credit values and technical standards in co-operation with the Forest Technical Advisory Committee. The review period will be scheduled to meet appropriate time lines in preparation for possible changes to be in effect for the calendar year 2006.

- To prepare and release the State of the Forest report.

As referenced earlier, work has just started on a renewal of the Forest Strategy. During 2005-2006, work on the strategy will focus on the identification of issues, possible options for addressing these issues, and how the preferred options could be implemented.

6.1.3 Manage the Province's Mineral Resources

The department provides programs, services and information that are utilized by the province's mineral industry, other groups, and the public. Departmental priorities for 2005-2006 include:

- Department staff will work to provide for a continuing coal industry in Cape Breton by facilitating the acquisition of new mineral rights for surface and underground coal resources in the Sydney coalfield. Applications for mineral rights for surface coal resources arising from the first tender call for surface coal projects in 2003-2004 will be evaluated. A call for proposals for the Donkin resource issued in 2004 will be completed and, with the help of an international consultant, a successful proponent chosen. Staff will continue to work with officials of CBDC and the federal government to ensure that commitments to fully evaluate and account for environmental liabilities on CBDC lands are met, and that issues related to access to CBDC lands for future coal mining are successfully resolved.

- In cooperation with the Office of Economic Development, a process to update the province's mineral strategy will be pursued. A study of the economic impact of the mineral industry on the province and a review of the 1996 Mineral Policy will form the basis for the preparation of a discussion document, which will be taken to public consultation. The strategy will focus on ensuring that the department's programs are focused on supporting and encouraging sustainable economic development related to the use of the province's geological resources.

- The department will continue to facilitate efficient and effective reviews of mineral development projects through a coordinated "one-window" process, including the provision of scientific, technical and policy advice to other departments.

- Updates to the province's geoscience database will continue through the acquisition of regional geological and geochemical information. New geological maps for SW Nova at 1:50,000 and aggregate resource maps for the Annapolis Valley region will be completed and published. Results of geoscience projects completed as part of the Targeted Geoscience Initiative II project in SE Cape Breton Island will be prepared for publication.

- The department will continue to work with the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage and the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association to develop the Joggins fossil cliffs as a world class tourism attraction and site of outstanding heritage significance. The department is leading the scientific efforts to make the case for designation under this program and participates on the project advisory board.

6.1.4 Integrated Resource Management Planning on Crown Lands

The department defines Integrated Resource Management, or IRM, to be "a planning and decision-making process that involves the coordination of resource management policies, programs and activities so that long-term sustainable benefits are optimized and conflicts among resource users are minimized." An IRM process is used for Crown lands administered by DNR so that we are able to take into account the relationships between the various resource uses and effects of management practices of one resource upon others.

The IRM process includes two major parts. First, the planning activity identifies special land features, uses and resource values, and incorporates these into databases, goals and objectives for Crown land. An inventory of values has been identified by department staff, other departments and agencies, the general public, and stakeholders. Second, based on the planning information identified, the land use decision making part of the process recognizes and conserves special land features and uses, optimizes long term sustainable resource values, and minimizes conflicts.

The province is categorized in 39 ecodistricts. A Long Range Management Framework (LRMF) is an ecologically based land use planning document. Eventually each ecodistrict will be covered by an LRMF. Work planned for 2005-2006 includes:

- the completion of the Mulgrave Plateau LRMF, with an opportunity for public comment, is expected in the spring of 2005.

- the assessment of the pilot project will be completed in the spring and summer of 2005 and adjustments, such as amendments to the LRMF Guidelines, will be completed in the summer of 2005.

- implementation of the LRMF process for one ecodistrict in each of DNR's three regions will begin in the fall of 2005. This will be the next step toward the preparation of LRMF's for all ecodistricts in the province.

6.1.5 Provide an Effective Parks and Recreation Program

The department supports the planning, design, development and operation of more than 120 camping and day-use parks, in addition to providing trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities on Crown land. During the 2005-2006 fiscal year a number of initiatives and activities are planned.

- Securing long-term use and public access is an important and ongoing aspect of park development. The department will identify park and outdoor recreation opportunities that support program objectives, including outdoor recreation experiences and the protection of unique and desirable cultural and heritage values.

- Work will be undertaken to prepare planning elements that provide direction for the future development and management of park related resources.

- Part of the park development process involves preparing individual management plans for properties in advance of any significant on-site development taking place. Management plans provide the context for future development by establishing the opportunities and constraints that exist. During 2005-2006, work will be underway to develop management plans for several park properties including Cape Split, Long Lake, Second Lake, and West Mabou.

- Partnerships are a key aspect of furthering community involvement and commitment to park development and are another avenue in securing the long-term sustainability of parks. A number of partnerships are in place. During 2005-2006 the department will maintain our existing partnerships, and provide various park services in cooperation with these partners. A key property for future partnerships and development opportunities is McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park, located in the centre of Halifax Harbour. The department will also work with other government departments to address cross jurisdictional mandates. To support the development of partnerships, the department will introduce guidelines for the establishment of "Friends of... Provincial Parks".

- The department will work with the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Shubenacadie Canal Commission to manage public areas and access points along the Shubenacadie Canal. A long range plan to secure infrastructure maintenance and development will be prepared in cooperation with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission. The department will assist the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in their efforts to identify and secure new partnerships in support of their mandate.

- Recovery efforts required to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Juan will continue into 2005-2006. Work still remains to be done at two of the department's most heavily impacted park properties, McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park and Porters Lake Provincial Park. Porters Lake Park is scheduled to re-open again in 2005, after being closed for the entire 2004 season while repairs were underway.

- Work is underway, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage, to acquire and install a new camping park registration and reservation system. This system is scheduled to be operational by the summer of 2006.

- It is an ongoing challenge to effectively operate and manage the variety of infrastructure that is part of the provincial parks system in order to adequately support the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities, tourism opportunities, and the protection of our natural and cultural resources. A number of projects are planned for 2005-2006 that will provide new and upgraded infrastructure within the parks system.

- Work has started on a comprehensive parks system strategy. This will update the 1988 Parks Policy, provide an updated vision for our provincial parks system, and establish key program priorities for the next decade. An integral part of the strategy development process will be broad public and stakeholder consultations.

6.1.6 Conserve Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

The promotion and implementation of the principles and ethics of conservation and sustainable use of wildlife populations, habitats and ecosystems in Nova Scotia is a priority of the department. This includes research, development and delivery of programs, policies, and legislation, including species at risk initiatives. Information on wildlife populations and their habitat is collected in order to obtain the scientific information required for sound decision-making. Also included is the provision of educational and viewing opportunities at the provincial wildlife park in Shubenacadie. Specific priorities are listed below.

- The department will continue programs, policies and legislation for the implementation of the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk, the Nova Scotia *Endangered Species Act* and the federal Species at Risk Act which was recently approved. This will be done in part by evaluating the status of species, listing species, initiating recovery plans and engaging in recovery actions.

- DNR will monitor and regulate harvested wildlife populations, including deer, moose, bear, furbearers and small game, and work cooperatively at provincial, national and international levels to help ensure their conservation and sustainable use.

- DNR will maintain and update a GIS database of significant wildlife habitats and species to provide information for planning, decision-making and management action.

- The *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations* will be reviewed to determine their effectiveness and determine if changes are required.

- The department will work with partners in projects such as the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, the Black Duck Joint Venture and the Sea Duck Joint Venture as part of Nova Scotia's commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

- DNR will manage the Habitat Conservation Fund and the Species at Risk Conservation Fund to enable funding of non-government organizations for important wildlife conservation projects.

- The Provincial Shubenacadie Wildlife Park will provide a high quality program with a focus on educational opportunities including an educational outreach program. The department will partner with Ducks Unlimited Canada to provide for a new wetland interpretative and educational centre at the Wildlife Park to enhance public awareness of wetland habitats and waterfowl.

- DNR will assess the results of the review of the Wildlife Management Areas and Sanctuaries in order to recommend which ones to retain, which new ones to add and the regulations to manage them for the protection of wildlife populations and habitats.

- In keeping with Nova Scotia's commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the Province has started the development of a Nova Scotia Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy will address cross-cutting issues, approaches and actions and provide useful scientific information on the province's biological resources including genes, species, ecosystems as well as its ecological processes and services. The strategy, to be completed in 2006, will further establish Nova Scotia as a Canadian leader in environmental stewardship, conservation and resource use.

6.1.7 Utilize Department Information and Expertise

The department has a considerable amount of scientific and technical information available. Several department priorities for 2005-2006 relate to our use of this natural resources-related knowledge and information, as well as activities aimed at making it easier for others to access and use our information.

- The availability and utility of digitally-based geoscientific information on the web will be improved during the year. The department will also work with municipalities, community groups, rural development authorities and others to increase their use of geoscientific and mineral resource information in land and resource use decision making.

- Improvements in public safety will be realized by continuing the program to cap and/or fill abandoned mine openings on Crown lands. As part of this program, the department will provide information and advice on abandoned mines to landowners and municipalities. Remediation of high risk abandoned mine openings on Crown lands according to the program priority plan will be undertaken to the extent that resources allocated to the program permit.

- The department will complete the placement of the non-confidential components of the Nova Scotia GIS forestry database layer on the National Forest Information System (NFIS) website, which will make it publically available to all potential users.

- A new spatial GIS mapping layer of potential wetland areas in Nova Scotia will be completed in partnership with the Nova Forest Alliance, forest industry and other government departments. This mapping product will assist forest practitioners in operational land-use planning and management.

- A new digital, computer based system for conducting aerial photo interpretation for Nova Scotia will be tested and implemented during the year.

- Educational material will be provided to youth, educators, resource sector clients, the media, and the general public on sustainable and responsible resource management and use practices, department programs, and changes in legislative requirements.

6.1.8 Meet National Obligations

The department is working with the federal government and other provinces in a number of different areas. Specific activities planned for 2005-2006 include the following:

- The department is a participant in federal-provincial-territorial initiatives to develop a Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network, a National Forest Information System, and Canadian Conservation Data Centres. These initiatives will make the information holdings of Canadian government geoscience, forestry and wildlife agencies available in compatible digital formats over the Internet.

- The department is participating in the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Program. This program is a joint industry-government initiative to address the legacy of orphaned/abandoned mines in Canada with all the associated issues such as environmental liability, human health concerns and the financial cost of clean-ups. The department is developing information on orphaned/abandoned mine sites in Nova Scotia as part of the compilation of a national inventory as a first step in this program.

- The department is participating in a national working group to assess how recent changes to the federal tax system affect the mineral resource industry.

- The Province continues to participate in developing the Canadian Geological Mapping Strategies, a Canadian Action Plan for the Convention on Biodiversity, and a National Wildland Fire Strategy with other provinces/territories and the federal government. The Province continues to implement the 2003-2008 National Forest Strategy with both governments and NGO's across the country.

- The department will participate, in partnership with Natural Resources Canada and all provincial governments, through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), in other information initiatives.

- The Province partners in and benefits from its membership in the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the Northeast Forest Fire Compact; both provide mutual aid support for forest fire suppression if needed.

- The Province continues negotiations to establish a Bilateral Agreement with the Federal Government for national implementation of the species at risk legislation and programming.

6.1.9 Provide Forest Protection Services

Protection of Nova Scotia forests from fire, pests and disease is mandated through the *Forests Act* and is a continuing priority for the department. The extent of forest fires and pest occurrences in the province can vary considerably from year to year and can place a considerable burden on the department's budget. The fire management and integrated pest management programs must be able to effectively address current and future requirements, while functioning within budgetary limitations.

The effects of Hurricane Juan, which crossed the central part of the province in September 2003, are an ongoing concern. With the increased volume of dead, dying and damaged forest material that has been drying out for over a year now in the central region of the province, the risk of fire is expected to be even higher in the coming fire season than it was last year.

The populations of several insects, that were first detected in increasing numbers in 2004 will be closely monitored in 2005. A number of pest detection surveys will be undertaken throughout the province in 2005-2006. Results will be analyzed to prepare pest risk assessments and forecasts of potential problems associated with these elevated pest populations.

Large populations of the blackheaded budworm have been discovered in woodlands in the Cape Breton Highlands. DNR staff will be working with staff from the Canadian Forest Service during 2005-2006 to determine the best methods for controlling this insect.

6.1.10 Off-highway Vehicle Initiative

An Interdepartmental Committee, which is coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources, was established by the Province in November 2004. The Committee is responsible for the development of a provincial response to the Off-highway Vehicle Task Force Recommendations.

In the spring of 2005, the Interdepartmental Committee will provide government with recommendations on the direction to be taken in response to each of the 39 recommendations made by the Off-highway Vehicle Task Force. The Interdepartmental Committee will also propose a general schedule and approach for developing the action plans that will be required for implementing the government's decisions on each of the recommendations.

Additional resources will be allocated to allow the department to provide increased ATV enforcement services during 2005-2006. In rural areas, this will provide increased coverage

of parks, beaches, trails, Wilderness Areas, and woodlands. In urban areas, the department will conduct joint operations with other enforcement agencies.

6.2 Crown Lands Administration

Priorities for this core business area are related to the administration of the province's Crown lands. These include updating several pieces of legislation, policies, procedures; acquiring additional land; the distribution of land information; and meeting operational obligations and demands for service.

6.2.1 Provide an Up to Date and Responsive Legislative Framework

The effective administration of Crown land depends upon the existence of an up to date legislative and policy framework. Work planned for 2005-2006 includes the following:

- To migrate Crown lands into the new land registry system and deal with clarification of those parcel identifier numbers (PID's - Nova Scotia Property Records Database) affected by Crown land encroachment, the department will initiate necessary legislative changes.

- The department and the Department of Environment and Labour will complete operations bulletins for the acquisition of Wilderness Area inholdings and adjacent lands, and for the administration of inland submerged lands.

- The department will work with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) and the Department of Environment and Labour to consider ways to encourage private land conservation. The department will continue to work with the Private Land Conservation Enhancements (PLACES) Committee to encourage conservation initiatives on private lands.

6.2.2 Improve Opportunities for Land Acquisition

In the years of 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, the department had a Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) allocation of $1 million to support acquisitions on behalf of DNR and DEL. In addition, in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, the department received special allocations of $14 million (the acquisition of property in Hants County from MacTara), $1.2 million (the acquisition of property in Port Bickerton, Guysborough County) and $768,000 (Sackville Second Lake, Halifax County acquisition). There is continued pressure to add other properties valued by Nova Scotians to the Crown land base. The following activities are planned for 2005-2006.

- Subject to the availability of TCA funding, the department will acquire coastal lands, Wilderness Area inholdings for the Department of Environment and Labour, and other properties that support department and government initiatives and programs.

- Partnerships with non-government conservation organizations (such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Nova Scotia Nature Trust), resulting in the leveraging of private sector funds for land acquisition, will be encouraged and supported.

6.2.3 Streamline Land Administration Processes

- The approval of the new Ministerial Land Transaction Regulations will decrease red tape and increase delivery efficiency associated with land transactions.

6.2.4 Improve Access to Land Information

The department holds a considerable amount of land information. However much of this information is paper-based, which limits its usefulness. The following activities began in 2003-2004 and will continue in 2005-2006, in order to allow the improved utilization of Crown land information and to facilitate access by users of this information:

- Continued integration of Crown land information with the resource specific geographic information system databases within the department, and improving the availability of Crown land information remains a priority. Work is also being carried out on the conversion of paper based records to an electronic format as part of a multi-year project.

- The Department and SNSMR have developed a process for the migration of Crown land however the process will be refined over time.

In addition, the department will form a Crown Land Migration Project Group to effectively and efficiently migrate Crown land into the Nova Scotia Property Records Database. This Project Group will be a multi-year effort and resources will be allocated to support work on the migration and to clarify those land parcels affected by Crown land encroachment.

6.3 Infrastructure and Support Services

The department has a considerable investment in buildings, other facilities, and equipment necessary for its ongoing operation. The maintenance, and the occasional replacement, of these facilities and equipment is an ongoing priority.

6.3.1 Infrastructure / Equipment Maintenance and Replacement

A number of projects have been identified as priorities for repairs or replacement during 2005-2006. This includes activities related to various departmental offices, depots, park facilities, roads, parking lots, vehicles, fire towers, laboratories, and a range of other planned work. A review of the department's vehicle fleet will be undertaken to determine the most efficient long term purchasing and maintenance options. Refresh plans will also be developed in each region for various equipment and structures.

6.3.2 Implementation of Initiatives to Improve Internal Efficiency

There are some specific projects being implemented during the coming year. Major priorities planned for 2005-2006 include the following.

- A number of initiatives will be undertaken to provide and maintain a modern information technology infrastructure (desktop computers, peripheral devices, network equipment, data storage devices, data communications and applications)

capable of meeting the department's business requirements. As an example, the department is very decentralized in terms of delivering its services to the citizens of Nova Scotia. As such, the growing requirement to decentralize business applications is being undertaken with the addition of networking capabilities and data communications improvements to many of our regional offices. This will allow most of our offices to access a number of corporate and departmental applications, including financial, human resources, inventory management, and records management systems, that were not previously available.

- The full implementation of a new, department-wide records management system, started during 2003-2004. The major part of this project still to be completed involves the transfer of records in small individual systems or records administered manually, to this new integrated electronic system. As part of this transfer, all existing files will be converted to the government standard records classification system. The completion of this system will enhance record management capabilities within the department by providing department staff outside Head Office with access to an electronic system, and providing the department with the means to better manage our information holdings.

- The department has started the implementation of the Department of Transportation and Public Works' Government Services for Inventory Control (GSIC) system as an asset management system. This is a government wide system that, once in place, will provide an accurate, complete, and up-to-date record of the department's assets. The transfer of information on assets in Head Office to this system has been substantially completed. In 2005-2006, work will start on recording information on assets held in regional offices in the system.

- Human resources related priorities include the provision of advice and assistance with respect to strategic initiatives, organizational design, labour relations, human resource / succession planning, performance management, occupational health and safety, ability case management, and employee wellness. Ongoing personnel, payroll and benefits administration services will be provided throughout the year. Specific initiatives planned for, or continuing into, 2005-2006 include the development of a comprehensive human resources orientation program for department staff, and participation in the transformation and implementation of the new SAP HR/Payroll system.

6.3.3 Departmental Implementation of Corporate Initiatives

Bill 111, the *French-language Services Act*, was proclaimed early December 2004. One aspect of this legislation was the designation of government departments and other government bodies as having an obligation to provide French language services. This is a multi-year initiative where, over time, the department will provide additional services and information in French.

For 2005-2006, the department will concentrate on preparing an inventory of services and information currently provided to the public and identifying which of these would be most desirable to have available in French. The department already provides some information in French, primarily on our website. Additional French-language information will be added

to the website, as well as the production of some hard copy materials for use within the provincial parks system.

The government's Affirmative Action Policy requires that each department, agency, board, and commission develop a three-year affirmative action plan. An action plan has been developed for the department and the 2005-06 components of this plan will be implemented during the upcoming year.

7 Budget Context

The following table provides budget information for the department for both 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. The figures for 2005-2006 reflect additions to the department's budget allocation and number of funded staff for two major new initiatives. These new initiatives are the Crown Land Migration Project Group and enhanced enforcement services for off-highway vehicles.

Department of Natural Resources - Budget Context			
	2004-2005 Estimate	2004-2005 Forecast	2005-2006 Estimate
	$ Thousands	$ Thousands	$ Thousands
Ordinary Revenues	$8,395	$8,395	$8,400
TCA Purchase Requirements	$3,120	$4,170	$2,100
Net Program Expenses:			
• Senior Management	$556	$556	$628
• Corporate Services Unit *	$6,621	$6,689	$7,102
• Renewable Resources	$9,138	$9,892	$9,573
• Mineral Resources	$3,212	$3,106	$3,278
• Regional Services	$33,278	$33,263	$35,411
• Planning Secretariat	$4,252	$4,178	$4,335
• Land Services	$2,265	$2,304	$2,801
Total - Net Program Expenses	$59,322	$59,988	$63,098
Funded Staff (Full Time Equivalents)	848.4	827.8	868.4
* Note that the figures shown for the Corporate Services Unit includes the cost of financial, human resources, and information technology related services provided to a number of other government departments and agencies.			

8 Outcome and Performance Measures

The information provided in the following tables helps to provide an indication of the department's success in meeting our goals. Although some of the measures provided track outputs (what was done) as opposed to outcomes (what results were achieved), they are important to the department and help to explain what the department is trying to achieve in certain areas.

Outcome and performance measurement is an evolving process. Over time this performance measurement section has been modified slightly as measures have been replaced, refined, or consolidated. These changes will continue as future improvements and adjustments are made.

In this year's business plan, one measure "Percentage of main DNR offices able to access Crown land information electronically as of March 31" has been dropped since what it measured has been completed. In its place, a measure to reflect departmental progress dealing with issues created by the migration of Crown land information to the Nova Scotia Property Records Database has been added. Another measure "Annual occupancy rates at provincial camping parks" has been modified. In the past, this measure covered the entire camping season. Some parks open as early as the Victoria Day weekend in May while some parks stay open as late as the Thanksgiving weekend in October. In the future, this measure will cover the occupancy rate during the July/August period of each year, which is the core period of the provincial camping park system.

More detail on performance measures can be found on the department's website. This material was originally released in December 2003 as a supplement to the department's Accountability Report for 2002-2003. The location for the information on these measures can be found at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outcomes and this information will be updated next when the 2004-2005 Accountability Report is released later in 2005.

DNR Performance Measures

Core Business: Natural Resources Management						
Outcome	**Measure**	**Data**	**Data**	**Data**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Sound Natural Resources Stewardship	Percentage of Crown land with Long Range Management Frameworks in place as of March 31	0% (2002)	0% (2003)	0% (2004)	100% (2010)	• Devote resources to IRM teams and enhance capacity in GIS and modeling, to facilitate the completion of Long Range Management Frameworks (LRMFs).
	Number of "Species at Risk" partnerships in place as of March 31	5 (2002)	8 (2003)	12 (2004)	15 (2010)	• Establish partnerships to enable protection or recovery of species at risk.
	Area of wetland influenced by wetland stewardship agreements concluded during the year (hectares) (see Note 1 below)	497 (2001-02)	262 (2002-03)	941 (2003-04)	284 (2005-06)	• Work within the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture to establish wetland stewardship agreements.
	Number of Registered Buyers participating in Forest Sustainability Agreements during the year	35 (2002)	31 (2003)	30 (2004)	40 (2008)	• DNR staff will promote the development of Sustainability Agreements with the forest industry.
	Number of teachers and students receiving natural resources stewardship related training at the Wildlife Park annually	3,809 (2001-02)	3,800 (2002-03)	4,530 (2003-04)	10,000 (2009-10)	• Provide effective wildlife education programs for school groups with the opportunity to see the animals which are part of the lesson.
	Number of teachers, students, and community groups receiving natural resources stewardship related training at the Natural Resources Education Centre annually	6,603 (2001-02)	7,097 (2002-03)	5,262 (2003-04)	8,000 (2009-10)	• Provide teacher in-service and professional development workshops. • Deliver education programs for school and youth groups at the Natural Resources Education Centre in Middle Musquodoboit.
	Percentage of province for which forest resource data is ten years old or less	50% (2002)	60% (2003)	70% (2004)	100% (2007)	• Update forest inventory from air photography and satellite imagery. • Measurement of permanent sample plots. • Conversion of data into GIS database.
	Percentage of province for which geological maps are less than 25 years old	85% (2001-02)	85% (2002-03)	85% (2003-04)	80% (2005-06)	• Prioritize geoscience mapping projects to address areas for which data are more than 25 years old. • Maximize the efficiency of re-mapping areas for which older data exist.

Core Business: Natural Resources Management						
Outcome	**Measure**	**Data**	**Data**	**Data**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Sound Natural Resources Stewardship	Number of new mineral occurrences added annually to the provincial mineral occurrences database	10 (2001-02)	123 (2002-03)	18 (2003-04)	20 (2005-06)	• Continue existing program to locate, catalogue and describe mineral occurrences. • Maximize efforts to acquire data on newly discovered occurrences, as opposed to updates of data for known occurrences.
	Percentage of province for which aggregate resource information is less than 20 years old	30% (2001-02)	35% (2002-03)	35% (2003-04)	50% (2005-06)	• Continue existing program to locate, catalogue and describe bedrock and surficial aggregate resources. • Focus program on areas in province for which new aggregate resources are critical to economic development.
Conservation of Ecosystem Function	Percentage compliance with *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations* under the *Forests Act* (see Note 2 below)	NA (2001-02)	NA (2002-03)	NA (2003-04)	90% (2007-08)	• Promote and enforce Regulations. • Measure compliance.
	Percentage of park area meeting IUCN protection and natural areas criteria as of March 31	70% (2001-02)	85% (2002-03)	85% (2003-04)	maintain (2005-06)	• Identify properties for designation and prepare documentation. • Implement management plans that provide land use zoning criteria as described by provincial regulations.
	Percentage of active mine sites practicing progressive reclamation	58% (2001-02)	55% (2002-03)	57% (2003-04)	65% (2005-06)	• Promote progressive reclamation with mine operators.
Species Diversity	Percentage of endangered and threatened species with recovery plans in place (see Note 3 below)	92% (2001)	92% (2002-03)	86% (2003-04)	100% (2005-06)	• Create Recovery Teams for each listed species and provide support in developing Recovery Plans.
Public Safety	Number of students successfully trained annually	1,053 (2001-02)	1,270 (2002-03)	1,149 (2003-04)	1,150 (2008-09)	• Support the delivery of hunter, bowhunter, and trapper education courses.
	Number of high risk abandoned mine shafts remediated annually on Crown lands (see Note 4 below)	(2001-02)	(2002-03)	(2003-04)	(2005-06)	• Maximize available funds through partnership programs. • Remediate mine shafts with available funds.
	• Abandoned Mines Program	27	17	12	10	
	• through partnerships	0	40	0	25	
	• cooperation within government	8	13	31	5	

Core Business: Natural Resources Management						
Outcome	**Measure**	**Data**	**Data**	**Data**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Effective Management of Resource Supply	Amount of silviculture investment on small private woodlots annually (millions of silvicultural credits)	8.3 (2002)	8.6 (2003)	5.7 (2004)	9.0 (2008)	• Work with the forest industry to assist them in achieving full compliance with requirements of the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*. • Leverage private sector silviculture funding through Forest Sustainability Agreements.
	Percentage of required value of silviculture on private and industrial lands completed during the current year (see Note 5 below)	134% (2001)	130% (2002)	159% (2003)	100% (2008)	• Implementation of Forest Strategy / *Forest Sustainability Regulations*. • Wood supply analysis / GIS system analysis. • Audits, monitoring and compliance programs. • Registry of Buyers. • Communication and information initiatives.
	Area of forest resource lost to fires annually (hectares) (see Note 6 below)	211 (2002)	1,257 (2003)	290 (2004)	793 (2005)	• Fire detection system / fire prevention / fire suppression. • Acquisition and deployment of fire suppression resources. • Cooperation with volunteer fire departments, industry fire crews and municipalities.
	Percentage of hunting / trapping regulations reviewed annually	100% (2001-02)	100% (2002-03)	100% (2003-04)	100% (2005-06)	• Monitor wildlife populations with potential for over or under harvest. • Consult with stakeholders. • Recommend regulatory amendments.
	Percentage of mineral related acts and regulations reviewed in the last five years	100% (2001-02)	100% (2002-03)	100% (2003-04)	100% (2005-06)	• Regularly assess all mineral related legislation as they are utilized. • Schedule detailed assessments as required and identify and recommend necessary changes.
	Percentage of "One Window Interdepartmental Committee meetings held within three weeks of receipt of request (see Note 7 below)	NA (2001-02)	100% (2002-03)	67% (2003-04)	100% (2005-06)	• Continue dialogue with mineral sector clients on the importance of the One Window process to ensure submission of comprehensive applications. • Continue interaction with other government departments to ensure timely meetings and decision-making by the One Window Committee.
Awareness of Resource Development Opportunities	Number of parks related partnerships as of March 31	7 (2001-02)	10 (2002-03)	13 (2003-04)	maintain or increase # (2005-06)	• Identify partnership opportunities within the park system. • Seek potential partners to develop and/or manage new parks. • Seek partners with respect to park facilities and opportunities for services.
	Number of requests annually for technical information and assistance from other government departments, regional development agencies, prospectors, developers, and mining companies	300 (2001-02)	350 (2002-03)	350 (2003-04)	400 (2005-06)	• Participate in provincial, national and international confesences and trade shows. • Increase amount of mineral promotion information on the departmental website. • Maintain a close liaison with the Office of Economic Development.
	Number of downloads annually of technical geoscience information from the departmental website (thousands)	11.1 (2001-02)	18.9 (2002-03)	39.0 (2003-04)	30.0 (2005-06)	• Continue ongoing program to post new geoscience information (maps, data and reports) on the departmental website. • Advertise availability of information at conferences and workshops and through department and external publications.

Core Business: Natural Resources Management						
Outcome	**Measure**	**Data**	**Data**	**Data**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
Recreational Opportunities	Area of designated provincial parks as of March 31 (hectares)	14,900 (2002)	14,200 (2003)	14,200 (2004)	maintain or increase (2005)	• Efficient and effective operation of provincial parks. • Identify potential properties for designation under the *Provincial Parks Act*. • Acquire lands to consolidate existing provincial parks or lands with significant recreational value.
	Length of trails in parks and on Crown lands as of March 31 (kilometres)	424 (2002)	472 (2003)	537 (2004)	maintain or increase (2005)	• Work with partners to develop additional trail opportunities. • Develop partnerships to facilitate development of additional trails.
Appreciation of Natural Resources	Number of visitors to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park annually (thousands)	98 (2001-02)	98 (2002-03)	92 (2003-04)	110 (2009-10)	• Provide a natural setting with appropriate enclosures for animals. • Provide educational messages to ensure people get a good understanding of NS wildlife.
	Annual occupancy rates at provincial camping parks during core season (see Note 8 below)	45% (2002)	46% (2003)	46% (2004)	46% (2005)	• Upgrade facilities and services (market readiness). • Improve client services. • Work with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage to increase the promotion of provincial parks.

Core Business Area: Crown Lands Administration						
Outcome	**Measure**	**Data**	**Data**	**Data**	**Target**	**Strategies to Achieve Target**
A Modern and Efficient Land Administration System	Percentage of acts, regulations, and policies reviewed during last five years as of March 31 (see Note 9 below)	46% (2001-02)	68% (2002-03)	70% (2003-04)	70% (2008-09)	• Regular assessment of all land administration acts, regulations, and policies as they are utilized. • Schedule detailed assessments as required and identify necessary changes.
	Percentage of resolved (NSPRD "green layer") PID's affected by the ungranted Crown 40,000 series (see Note 10 below)	NA (2001-02)	NA (2002-03)	NA (2003-04)	50% (2005-06)	• Creation of the Crown Land Migration Project Group. • Regular evaluation and reporting of progress in resolving Property Identifier Numbers (PID) issues with respect to ungranted Crown land parcels being migrated to the Nova Scotia Property Records Database (NSPRD).

Performance Measures Notes:

1. Wetland Stewardship Agreements frequently cover large, discrete blocks of land. As a result, it is difficult to set a target for this measure more than one year in the future.

2. The *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations* came into effect in January 2002. Initially the department's focus was on educational programs for the forestry industry and woodlot owners that explained how the Regulations protect ecosystem function. The department has shifted its focus to take a more active approach to compliance monitoring but continues to provide educational and advice to woodlot owners and contractors.

3. The percentage of endangered and threatened species with recovery plans in place on time is a measure that was created by combining two measures used in the past that reported endangered species and threatened species separately. Under the *Endangered Species Act*, plans are to be completed within a year of being listed as an endangered species and within two years of being listed as a threatened species.

4. The measure for the number of high risk abandoned mine openings remediated annually was expanded to better account for the amount of work being done in this area. Previously only mine shafts that were filled were included, however a significant number of mine shafts have also been fenced, which has required a considerable amount of resources. In addition, work has been completed outside the Abandoned Mines Program, either through partnership arrangements with companies doing work on Crown land, or elsewhere within government when dealing with emergency situations requiring immediate attention and remediation action. It was felt that it was appropriate to expand the measure to reflect these additional accomplishments.

5. After the *Forest Sustainability Regulations* came into effect, the requirement for registered buyers to carry out silviculture activities was phased in during a transitional period. Requirements during the transitional period were set at less than the 100% level required after the transition period ended. However the intention of this measure was to track the aggregated compliance of individual buyers in meeting their obligations. Each buyer would have a specific amount of silviculture they were responsible for and they were expected to complete 100% of this amount. Industrial and private lands are defined in the *Registration and Statistical Returns Regulations*. "Industrial landowner" means a landowner who owns a wood processing facility while "private landowner" means a landowner who does not own a wood processing facility.

6. For this measure the term "target" is inappropriate terminology. A more accurate description would be to describe it as a desired ceiling. The area of forest resource lost to fires annually can fluctuate considerably from year to year. A target is difficult to set since a year with one or two large fires can easily exceed any "target" by a significant amount. Our ceiling is based on a ten year average and can be

viewed as an upper limit we hope to stay below. However the very nature of a ten year average (moving averages) means that there will be some years below the average and some years above the average.

7. This measure tracks one aspect of service to clients, by measuring the timeliness of One Window reviews of mining projects.

8. This measure has been changed from the annual occupancy rate for the full season to the annual occupancy rate during the core season months of July and August. This period is less dependent on weather conditions than when parks are open in late May, June, September, and early October. In addition, this period corresponds to the main vacation time for many Nova Scotians and visitors to the province, and to the summer vacation time of the year for the province's school system.

9. This measure was expanded to include policies that are used to administer Crown lands (some of these affect private lands as well).

10. This measure was added as one indicator to track work undertaken by the Crown Lands Migration Project Group.